

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of April 12, 2004, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the patent to Buxbaum '543, in view of the patent to Buxbaum '729.

Finally, it is noted that claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are allowed.

In view of the Examiner's rejection of claim 3, Applicant has amended this claim to delete reference to palladium. With this change, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn. Therefore, it is further respectfully submitted that this claim is now in condition for allowance.

Relative to claim 8, this claim has been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

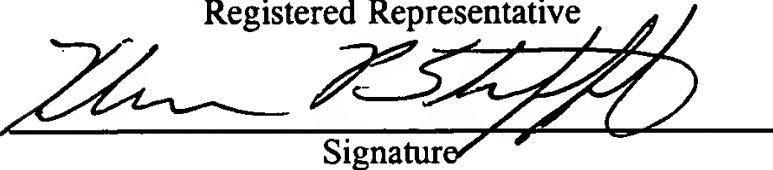
It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 12, 2004:

Klaus P. Stoffel

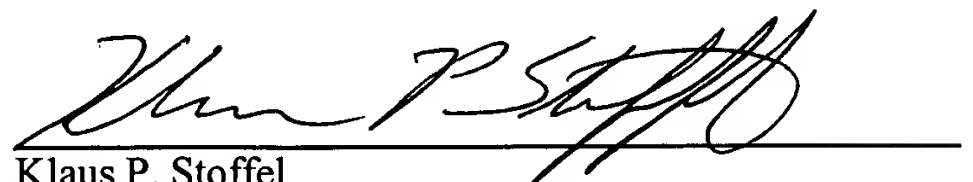
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

July 12, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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